

I claim:

1. A method for enhancing the effectiveness of antimicrobial agents comprising the step of combining the antimicrobial agent with citric acid and or salts or citric acid.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, povidone iodine, iodine, polyphenols of plant origin, and disinfectant organic dyes.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the disinfectant organic dyes are selected from the group consisting of methylene blue and crystal violet.

4. A method for extending the life of a platelet concentrate and preventing the multiplication of bacteria therein comprising the step of adding between 1 and 15% by weight of sodium citrate to the platelet concentrate.

5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of removing the sodium citrate.

6. The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of adding an antimicrobial agent to the platelet concentrate.

7. The method of Claim 4, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, povidone iodine, iodine, polyphenols of plant origin, and disinfectant organic dyes.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the disinfectant organic dyes are selected from the group consisting of methylene blue and crystal violet.

1 9. A method for disinfecting solutions containing red blood cells
2 comprising the step of adding between 1 and 15% by weight of sodium citrate to the solution.

1 10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of removing the
2 sodium citrate.

1 11. The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of adding an
2 antimicrobial agent to the solution.

1 12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected
2 from the group consisting of antibiotics, povidone iodine, iodine, polyphenols of plant origin,
3 and disinfectant organic dyes.

1 13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the disinfectant organic dyes are
2 selected from the group consisting of methylene blue and crystal violet.

1 14. A topical preparation comprising an antimicrobial agent and a
2 concentration of citrate sufficient to enhance an antimicrobial action of the antimicrobial
3 agent.

1 15. The preparation of Claim 14, wherein the antimicrobial agent is
2 selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, povidone iodine, iodine, polyphenols of
3 plant origin, and disinfectant organic dyes.

1 16. The preparation of Claim 15, wherein the disinfectant organic dyes are
2 selected from the group consisting of methylene blue and crystal violet.